

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SRFS 1 2 7 2 7



# THE ALLIANCE

**...for responsible development of Alaska's Oil, Gas & Mineral Resources**

360 West Benson Blvd., Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99503 • Phone (907) 563-2226 • Fax (907) 561-8870

May 1, 2007

Rep. Jay Ramras, Chair of House Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 118  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Rep. Ramras,

The Alaska Support Industry Alliance, a trade association whose 400 members provide goods and services to Alaska's oil, gas and mining industries and more than 30,000 jobs for Alaskans, supports HJR 17 that encourages Coeur Alaska, the company developing the Kensington Gold Mine north of Juneau, to pursue all legal options to overturn the forthcoming US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that will halt construction of this valuable mine project.

- Coeur Alaska has nearly 60 environmental and regulatory permits in place for the Kensington Gold Mine and has demonstrated commitment to responsible management of its mining projects.
- The Kensington Gold Mine tailings disposal plan was approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers, found to be in compliance with the Clean Water Act and upheld by the federal district court of Alaska, which was overturned by a US 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals has demonstrated a pattern of antidevelopment decision making in regard to Alaska and its right to develop its resources.

Allowing the Kensington Gold Mine to continue is beneficial to Alaska's economy and the companies and individuals that support the mining industry. Please join us in encouraging Coeur Alaska to pursue all legal options to overturn the US Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. Alaskans know best what is good for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jim Palmer  
President

Paul Laird  
General Manager



# ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • www.alaskaminers.org

April 27, 2007

Honorable Craig Johnson  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Joint Resolution 17, Support for Kensington Gold Mine

Dear Representative Johnson,

The Alaska Miners Association supports House Joint Resolution 17 which is in support of the Kensington Gold Mine.

Coeur Alaska has worked for more than two decades exploring and working on the permitting process for the Kensington Mine. By the time the first Environmental Impact Statement was completed, the gold price had decreased to the point where the project was not economically feasible. Coeur then went back to the drawing board and after several years worked its way through a 1<sup>st</sup> Supplemental EIS. But as happened previously, the gold price had dropped further and the project was still not feasible. Coeur then went back again and redesigned the project and completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental EIS.

Before beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEIS, Coeur purchased rights to other lands in the area and although the new plan significantly decreased the production level, it made several improvements in mine layout, facilities and many of the approaches previously utilized. These changes resulted in both improvement to the environment and lowered the cost of production. The 2<sup>nd</sup> SEIS specifically addressed many of the issues raised by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC). For each of the EISs, Coeur made commitments to SEACC which built on previous promises, without going back.

None the less, SEACC appealed the Record of Decision (ROD) to the District Court and that Court affirmed the ROD as written. However, SEACC then appealed the ROD to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and that court overturned the decision of the District Court.

HJR-17 encourages Coeur Alaska to appeal the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court where we believe that Court would rule in favor of the EPA and Corps of Engineers permits and the ROD. It is common knowledge that the U.S. Supreme Court often overturns decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit and we believe that the decision in this case will be another one of them.

The problems in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit are legendary and have been a national disgrace for decades. Our Alaska Senators have filed numerous bills over the years to divide the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit into two courts. Senators Murkowski and Stevens, along with Senator Ensign (NV) have again introduced legislation to split the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit which now encompasses 20% of the U.S. population.

We urge that this bill be passed and enacted at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.F.  
Executive Director



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975  
Executive Director  
Jason W. Brune  
2006-2007 Executive Committee  
John T. Shively, President  
Rick Rogers, Sr. Vice President  
Wendy Lindskaog, Vice President  
Thomas Maloney, Secretary  
Stephanie Madsen, Treasurer  
Patty Bielawski  
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Teresa Imm  
Mike Jungreis  
Dane Keller  
Frank V. Kelly  
Kip Knudson  
Thomas G. Krzewinski  
Francis LaChapelle  
Thomas Lovas  
Sean Magee  
David L. Matthews  
Karen Matthus  
William Harry McDonald  
James Mery  
Denise Michels  
Lance Miller  
Jim Palmer  
Judy Patrick  
Debbie Reinwand  
Elizabeth Rensch  
Thyes J. Shaub  
Lorna Shaw  
Kenneth Shelfield  
Keith N. Silver  
Joseph Sprague  
Jeanine St. John  
John L. Sturgeon  
Jim Taro  
Cam Toohy  
Es-Officio Members  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sarah Palin

April 16, 2007

The Honorable Sarah Palin  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

HJR 17

Dear Governor Palin:

The Resource Development Council is writing to request that your administration initiate a collaborative effort between Coeur Alaska, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, (SEACC), the Sierra Club and other involved interests to encourage settlement of the Kensington Mine lawsuit, and to determine the best solution for disposal of tailings from the mine.

Coeur Alaska has been working with state and federal agencies, local businesses, fishermen, environmental groups and the citizens of Juneau to develop an environmentally-responsible mine which will help expand the local economy. The approved plan at Kensington reflects the collective expertise of dozens of independent scientists and engineers whose work went into more than 900 studies conducted over the past ten years. Throughout this process, the best method of tailings disposal was identified and it is reflected in the approved and permitted plan.

Coeur Alaska moved forward with construction activities in 2005 only after it obtained nearly 60 permits in total. Moreover, construction followed after exhaustive public input and after the company incorporated additional protections and conditions into the mine plan. The U.S. District Court of Alaska validated the Kensington permits by dismissing an earlier lawsuit.

The company has demonstrated its commitment to this project by completing 70% of construction, employing 400 workers, and has plans to employ approximately 225 people each year during operations for the estimated ten-year mine life with an estimated \$16 million annual payroll and benefits.

Coeur Alaska has recently been informed that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals intends to direct the U.S. District Court to reverse its decision on upholding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If the court issues this final decision, the current litigation will have effectively stopped the project and taken away what is truly the most practicable and environmentally-sound tailings storage facility plan.

Coeur Alaska has expressed its desire to collaborate with the environmental groups involved in this lawsuit in order to come up with a reasonable resolution that would allow this project to move forward. RDC requests that you facilitate all involved parties coming to the table to discuss settling this issue outside of the courts.

Governor, your direct participation in the process can result in making Kensington a reality. We appreciate your expedient consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason W. Brune", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason W. Brune  
Executive Director

**HJR**

**21**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/11/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 5/12/07

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21(RES)

## HJR 21 OPPOSE UN LAND DESIGNATIONS IN ALASKA

Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other type of international designation without the consent of the Alaska State Legislature and affected local governments; and urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to require congressional approval before an area in the United States may be considered for an international designation.

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
GOV	5/3			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
	Green	✓			
	McBurne	✓			
	<del>Allegre</del>	<del>✓</del>			
	<del>Stark</del>	<del>✓</del>			
CHAIR:	Huggins	✓			

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyda Green  
Sen. Gary Stevens  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-3878  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
800-862-3878

## Senate Resources Committee

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 11, 2007  
**To:** Kirsten Waid, Senate Secretary *CH [signature]*  
**From:** Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair Senate Resources  
**Re:** Senate Resources Committee Schedule

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### Committee Schedule

#### Senate Resources

May 12

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held in the  
FAHRENKAMP Room 205*

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 12

+ **HJR 21** Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other type of international designation without the consent of the Alaska State Legislature and affected local governments; and urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to require congressional approval before an area in the United States may be considered for an international designation.

Testimony: Time Limit May be Set

+ **HJR 17** Encouraging Coeur Alaska, Inc., to pursue all legal options to resolve the issues presented in Southeast Alaska Conservation Council v. United States Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of itself and consistent with the state's efforts to enforce its rights as a state over its resources.

Testimony: Time Limit May be Set

BPH/S



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: [Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)  
webpage: [www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/](http://www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/)

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2007

TO: Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Rep. Bill Thomas

RE: Hearing Request CSHJR 21 (RES)

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I respectfully request a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee for CSHJR 21 (RES), Opposing U.N. land designations in Alaska, at your earliest convenience.

This resolution addresses land use decisions relating to U.N. World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. It urges Congress to pass legislation requiring Congressional approval of any such land designations and asks that local government and the Alaska Legislature also provide consent before the nomination and designation of any site in Alaska.

Questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Ian Fisk of my staff at 465-6867.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request.



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: [Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us)

webpage: [www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/](http://www.akrepublicans.org/thomas/)

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

### SPONSOR STATEMENT CSHJR 21 (RES)

HJR 21 is a statement of local, state and federal sovereignty over land use designations, especially as they relate to resource use and development.

The United Nations administers two programs through UNESCO (U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) that designate international land use categories: World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.

World Heritage Sites are specific sites that can be forests, mountains, lakes and other natural features or cities, monuments and historical buildings. The program catalogues places of "outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humankind." In Alaska, areas such as the Aleutian Island National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Denali National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Katmai National Park are on the World Heritage List.

A Biosphere Reserve is an international conservation designation given by UNESCO under the Man and the Biosphere Program. These are created to "promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere," and must cover a "mosaic of ecological systems." Alaska's U.N. designated biosphere reserves include Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park, Noatak Biosphere Reserve, and Glacier Bay – Admiralty Island.

HJR 21 does not seek to end these U.N. programs. They may be appropriate designations in some cases. But the Resolution makes a statement that local and state consent should be required before such land designations are approved. It also urges Congress and the President to approve legislation that will require approval by an act of Congress before any U.S. territory can be studied or nominated for these types of international entities are established. Currently, the executive branch can nominate any site it chooses without congressional consultation or approval.

This resolution affirms the notion that those who live in or near these types of sites and who use the important natural resources and wildlife they contain should have a voice in the process. While Alaska certainly has an abundance of important ecosystems and natural landmarks, ours is a state whose economy and way of life clearly depends on the use and development of resources. Therefore, in passing HJR 21, the legislature can send a message to the federal government and the United Nations that we deserve a stronger role in the debate over World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21(RES)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 5/7/07  
Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Johnson, Lynn, Wilson**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere**  
2 **reserve, or any other type of international designation without the consent of the Alaska**  
3 **State Legislature and affected local governments; and urging the United States Congress**  
4 **to enact legislation to require congressional approval before an area in the United States**  
5 **may be considered for an international designation.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the United Nations has designated over 60 sites in the United States as  
8 "world heritage sites" or "biosphere reserves," which altogether are equal in size to the State  
9 of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and

10 **WHEREAS** art. IV, sec. 3, United States Constitution, provides that the United States  
11 Congress shall make all needed rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property  
12 belonging to the United States and nothing in the constitution shall be construed to prejudice  
13 any claims of the United States or of any state; and

14 **WHEREAS** many of the United Nations' designations include private property  
15 inholdings and contemplate buffer zones of adjacent land; and

1           **WHEREAS** some international land designations, such as those under the United  
2 States Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations  
3 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national  
4 committees such as the United States Man and Biosphere National Committee that have no  
5 legislative directives or authorization from the United States Congress; and

6           **WHEREAS** local citizens and public officials concerned about job creation and  
7 resource-based economies usually have no say in the designation of land near their homes for  
8 inclusion in an international land use program; and

9           **WHEREAS** these international designations are an open invitation to the international  
10 community to interfere in domestic economies and land use decisions; and

11           **WHEREAS** environmental groups and the United States Department of the Interior,  
12 National Park Service, have been working to establish an international park, a world heritage  
13 site, and a marine biosphere reserve called Beringia covering parts of western Alaska, eastern  
14 Russia, and the Bering Sea, and in Glacier Bay National Park; and

15           **WHEREAS** foreign companies and countries could use these international  
16 designations in western Alaska to block or inhibit economic development that they perceive  
17 as competition; and

18           **WHEREAS** animal rights activists could use these international designations to  
19 generate pressure to harass or block harvesting of marine mammals by Alaska Natives; and

20           **WHEREAS** international designations may be used to harass or block industrial  
21 development in the state, including projects related to fishing, mining, timber harvesting,  
22 railroads, power transmission lines, pipelines, and other oil and gas development; and

23           **WHEREAS** the subsistence and recreational use of fish and game resources in the  
24 state could be severely and negatively affected by international land use designations; and

25           **WHEREAS** the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization,  
26 with the collaboration of the United States Department of the Interior, has recognized the  
27 Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Elsek World Heritage Site in Alaska,  
28 and has listed the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge,  
29 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Krusenstern Archaeological District, Denali National  
30 Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park, and Katmai National Park on the Tentative List of  
31 areas nominated for full status; and

1           **WHEREAS** the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's  
2 Man and the Biosphere Programme has identified the Glacier Bay - Admiralty Island, Noatak,  
3 Denali, and Aleutian Islands Biosphere Reserves in Alaska; and

4           **WHEREAS**, under current law, the United States Secretary of the Interior can  
5 nominate world heritage sites, and the United States Secretary of State can nominate  
6 biosphere reserves, both without approval by the Congress;

7           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and reaffirms the  
8 constitutional authority of the United States Congress as the elected representatives of the  
9 people over the federally owned land of the United States; and be it

10           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature objects to the nomination  
11 or designation of any site in Alaska as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other  
12 type of international designation without the prior consent of the Alaska State Legislature and  
13 affected local governments; and be it

14           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
15 Congress to pass and the President to sign legislation that will require approval by an Act of  
16 Congress before any area in the United States or its territories can be studied as a potential, or  
17 nominated to be, a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other type of international  
18 designation.

19           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
20 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
21 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of  
22 the Interior; the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable  
23 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid,  
24 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the  
25 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of  
26 Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of  
27 Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.  
28 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
29 delegation in Congress; and all members of the 110th United States Congress by electronic  
30 transmission.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: HJR021-OOG-LGO-5-3-07  
 Bill Version: HJR 21  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):  
 Title: Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other. .

Dept. Affected: OOG  
 RDU Office of the Lt. Governor  
 Component Office of the Lt. Governor

Sponsor Representatives Thomas, Johnson and Lynn  
 Requester House Resources Committee

Component No. 11

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution will have no fiscal impact on the Office of the Lt. Governor.

Prepared by: Gail Fenumiai, Asst. Administrative Director  
 Division Division of Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Jim Merriner, Chief of Staff  
 Agency Office of the Lt. Governor

Phone 465-3885  
 Date/Time 5/3/2007, 10:41am  
 Date 5/3/2007



# ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org)

April 28, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Joint Resolution 21, Relating to International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas,

The Alaska Miners Association supports House Joint Resolution 21 which opposes international designation of lands in Alaska unless there is consent from the Alaska State Legislature, the affected local governments and approval by the United States Congress.

This is an extremely important Resolution and we thank you for introducing it in this Legislature. Few Alaskans are aware of the dangers posed by international land designations such as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. In addition to being contrary to the U.S. Constitution, World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Biosphere Reserves (BSR) can create serious problems for the states and communities where they occur. I will address just two of these problem areas – harassment by environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international business competition.

Once a WHS or BSR is established, local and international NGOs have used these designations to harass and stop development projects on adjacent lands. This has occurred in Kamchatka, Australia, the United States, and elsewhere. In each of these situations the mere fact that a WHS was in place was used to create international pressure and controversy to stop the projects. As is often the case with NGO attacks, there was no scientifically based environmental quality issue. But the existence of a WHS was sufficient to argue for stopping the projects. It is common knowledge that anything "Alaskan" can be, and is, used as fund raising appeal for NGOs. WHSs and BSRs would become one more rallying cry.

If the federal conservation system units (National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, Monuments) in Western Alaska had been designated as a World Heritage Site, I doubt the Red Dog Mine would be operating today. This would have been due to NGO opposition, but also from international competitors. If the world's other major zinc producers had known that Red Dog would one day produce more than 10% of the world's zinc concentrate, they would have looked for ways to oppose Red Dog. A WHS designation would have provided such a tool for them.

National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, and Monuments often become the target for WHS and BSR designations and once established, the argument becomes the need for a "buffer" around the area. The needs of local communities or the lack of local jobs, or the fact that the area is on state or private land is irrelevant. All that matters is that the some proposed activity is near a WHS or BSR.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation and we urge that it be passed and distributed at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Horell, P.E.  
Executive Director



State of Alaska  
**MINERALS  
COMMISSION**

*Irene Anderson, Chairman*

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Office of Economic Development  
Mineral Development

April 30, 2007

**Irene Anderson**  
Bering Straits Native  
Corporation, Nome

**Del Ackels**  
Goldust Mines,  
Fairbanks

**Lee Mark Anthony,**  
C-D Development  
Co., Anchorage

**Greg Beischer**  
Bristol  
Environmental &  
Engineering Services,  
Corp., Anchorage

**Bartly Colley**  
Usibelli Coal Mine,  
Inc., Fairbanks

**Don Cook**  
Cook International,  
Fairbanks

**Kari Hanneman**  
Teck Pogo, Inc.,  
Fairbanks

**Rich Helg**  
Kennebec Greens  
Creek Mining  
Company, Juneau

**Charlotte MacCay**  
Bristol  
Environmental &  
Engineering Services  
Corp., Anchorage

**Dr. Lance D. Miller**  
Juneau Economic  
Development  
Council, Juneau

**Mark Robinson**  
Olympic Resources  
Group LLC,  
Wrangell

**Richard A. Hughes**  
Staff - Fairbanks

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building, Room 434  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Representative Thomas:

I had the opportunity to review the House Joint Resolution, No. 21 relating to world heritage sites, biosphere reserves and other types of international designations in Alaska.

The Alaska Minerals Commission was encouraged when the Alaska House of Representatives passed Resolve No. 13 during the First Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature regarding opposition to world heritage sites, biosphere reserves and other types of international designations in Alaska. It is apparent that another resolution is needed to remind federal agencies and international groups of Alaska's rights and to encourage Congress and the President to support our voice.

Since Statehood and the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the State and private land owners have not had the opportunity to evaluate the full resource potential of lands within the state. We have a responsibility to protect our resources to meet the needs of Alaskans. The international designations would lead to the loss of State's rights as well as use of privately owned land and resources. It is necessary and right for the Alaska Legislature to address and support Resolution No. 21 to ensure that Alaskan's have a voice in any designation nominated by the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Secretary of State, and international or environmental groups.

Thank you for your time and effort to address this very important topic.

Respectfully,

*Irene Anderson*  
Irene Anderson  
Chairman

211 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4639  
Telephone: (907) 451-2738 Fax: (907) 451-2742

Email: [nch\\_hughes@commerce.state.ak.us](mailto:nch_hughes@commerce.state.ak.us) Website: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/oe1/minerals/mining.htm>



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

Executive Director  
John W. Brune

2006-2007 Executive Committee

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Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sarah Palin

May 2, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Joint Resolution 21, Relating to the International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its support for House Joint Resolution 21, which requires the consent of the Alaska Legislature, affected local governments and Congress before any land within Alaska can fall under an international designation.

RDC is a statewide non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry-support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Broad areas of Alaska already fall under conservation system unit (CSU) designations. In fact, Alaska accounts for 70 percent of America's national park lands and 85 percent of its wildlife refuge acreage. The nation's two largest national forests are within our state's borders, as well as 56 percent of America's federally-designated Wilderness. In our opinion, international designations such as World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Biosphere Reserves (BSR) are unnecessary and in some instances, may not be in the state's best interests.

Whether a WHS or BSR is created outside of an existing CSU or is applied on top of one, as proposed for Denali National Park, local, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could use such a designation to rally opposition to legitimate development projects on adjacent federal, state, Native and private lands. Likely projects or activities that could potentially be jeopardized by these designations include mining, timber harvesting, energy development, transportation and general infrastructure. World Heritage Sites have been used by NGOs to block development

Page 2/RDC Letter supporting House Joint Resolution 21

elsewhere, including a mine on private property near Yellowstone and other projects in Canada and abroad.

RDC believes any WHS or BSR designation must have authorization from Congress, the Legislature and the affected local government before being established. Otherwise, Alaska will risk throwing up yet one more potential barrier to resource development and having the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meddle in domestic land use policies.

RDC appreciates you introducing this resolution and look forward to its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman  
Deputy Director

***The Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.  
HC 60 Box 299C, Copper Center Alaska 99573  
(907) 822-3755***

May 4, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Cc: House Resource Committee Members

RE: HJR 21, Relating to International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas and Members of the House Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc. (APHA) please receive this letter as a letter of support for HJR 21. This resolution represents a long time needed side-board for International designations of Alaska's lands. I would ask you how many of Alaska's residents knew on December 1, 1978 when the Wrangell-St. Elias Nation Monument was created that less than one year later it would be submitted and accepted to the United Nations World Heritage Committee in Cairo Egypt.

Additional portions of Alaska that have been similarly affected include:

Denali National Park and Preserve was established as Mt. McKinley National Park on Feb. 26, 1917. The Park was designated an international U.N. Biosphere Reserve in 1976.

Glacier Bay National Monument was established as a National Park and Preserve Dec. 2, 1980 and designated a United Nations Biosphere Reserve in 1986, then designated a program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Heritage Site in 1992.

The mission statement of this United Nations subcommittee is to protect natural and cultural properties of outstanding universal value against the threat of damage in a rapidly developing world. One of the main responsibilities of this committee is to provide technical cooperation under the World Heritage Fund for the safeguarding of World Heritage properties to state parties whose resources are insufficient. Worldwide, there are numerous Biosphere Preserves and World Heritage Sites that are actively managed by the UNESCO.

It should be noted that the World Heritage Committee operates under international treaties. Action on or from these treaties does not require congressional approval. There are currently

twenty-two World Heritage Sites in the United States. Additional nominated World Heritage Sites in Alaska include areas in the Aleutian Islands, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park, and Katmai National Park. The U.S. Department of Interior has had a full contingent of representatives at all of the twenty-six sessions of the World Heritage Committee.

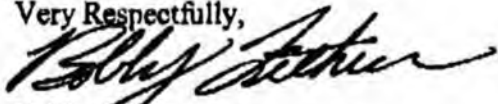
In regards to how the APHA plays into these designations, please note the following:

1. We are Alaskans and Americans and would like to have a say or an influence on decisions creating these designations of Public Lands of which our industry is dependant upon. (which we have not to date)
2. The way of life of our members and a substantial part of the two hundred million dollar a year revenue generation for Alaska that they generate within these designations could easily be jeopardized by differing philosophical viewpoints of foreign nations.

I just recently returned from conducting a paleontological expedition in the Alaska Arctic. (2008 NOVA Science documentary *Dinos on Ice*) Most of the scientists and the film crew personnel were from Europe or Australia, all of which were very familiar with UNESCO and the Alaskan designations. Additionally, they were very familiar with Beringia which is another International Park program substantial initiated by the National Park Service. In this case, many foreign countries including Canada are actively working to secure support for the creation and management of this large, once again, International Designation.

Representative Thomas's HJR 21 addresses the oversight that Alaska and our residents need and deserve in these types of designations. APHA encourages you to support this Resolution. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Very Respectfully,



Bobby Eithian

APHA Executive Director

**HJR**

**31**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/26/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 3/31/08

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31(RES)

## HJR 31 OPPOSE FED LAW RE AERIAL HUNTING

Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

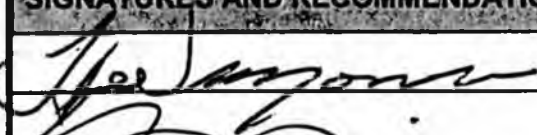
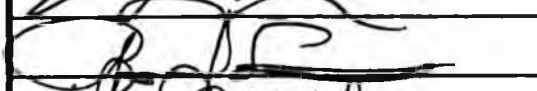
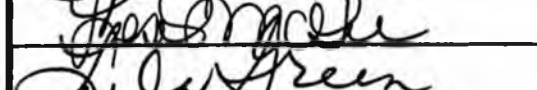
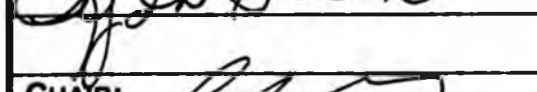

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
H. RES	2/20/08			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO. REC	AMEND
	WAGONER	✓			
	Wielechowski			✓	
	McBure			✓	
	Green	✓			
CHAIR: 	Aggras	✓			

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**Interim:**

**600 East Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
Phone (907) 373-1842  
Fax: (907) 373-4729\***



**Session:**

**State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2186  
Fax: (907) 465-3818**

## REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

### MEMO

To: Senator Charlie Huggins

Fm: Representative Wes Keller

Cc:

Date: March 26, 2008

Re: Request for Hearing CS for HJR 31

---

Please accept this memo and the attached packet as a request for the Senate Resources Committee to schedule for hearing CS for House Joint Resolution 31 Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.

CS HJR 31 is a direct reaction to a bill introduced in Congress by Congressman George Miller of California aimed specifically at Alaska's predator control program. This resolution will notify the members of Congress that we as a state legislature understand managing for abundance and do not need assistance in making decisions from Washington, D.C.

I urge your assistance by placing HJR 31 on the Senate Resources Committee hearing schedule at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Attachments: Sponsor Statement, CS HJR 31 (RES), HJR 31, Fiscal Note, H.R. 3663, Congressman Miller's Introduction Press Release, F&G Wildlife Report, Letter to Congressman Young from Denby Lloyd Comm. F&G, Letter to Congressman Miller from Sarah Palin, Governor, Governor's Press release, Public support, Committee and Floor Vote.

E-Mail: [Representative Wes Keller@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Wes_Keller@legis.state.ak.us)  
Call Juneau Toll free: (800) 468-2186  
Website: [www.akRepublicans.org/keller/](http://www.akRepublicans.org/keller/)

# HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re: Aerial Hunting

*Senator's Packet*

CS for HJR 31 (RES) vs E

HJR 31 vs/C Keller, Wilson Johnson  
Senate Referrals (1) Resources

HJR 31 vs/C  
Senate Referrals (1) Resources

*3*

1. Fiscal Note
2. Sponsor Statement
3. HR 3663 *Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007* & Congressman George Miller's Press Release
4. Administration (SOA) responses
  - ADF&G Overview of Relationships Between Bears, Wolves & Moose
  - Denby Lloyd letter to Rep. Don Young
  - Gov. Palin letter to Congressman Miller
  - Gov. Palin press response to HR 3663
5. Support

# HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re: Aerial Hunting

## CS for HJR 31 (RES) vs E HJR 31 vs/C

Senate Referrals (1) Resources

1. Fiscal Note
2. Sponsor Statement
3. HR 3663 *Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007*  
& Congressman George Miller's Press Release
4. Administration (SOA) responses
  - ADF&G Overview of Relationships Between  
Bears, Wolves & Moose
  - Denby Lloyd letter to Rep. Don Young
  - Gov. Palin letter to Congressman Miller
  - Gov. Palin press response to HR 3663
5. Support

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**Interim:**

**600 East Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
Phone (907) 373-1842  
Fax: (907) 373-4729**



**Session:**

**State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-2186  
Fax: (907) 465-3818**

## **REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14 Sponsor Statement**

### **HJR 31**

**A Resolution opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.**

For years now the state has been committed to manage our game despite the unique Alaska challenges. For more than a decade one of problems facing moose and caribou has been an increasing number of predators relative to the number of game animals. HJR 31 supports decisions by the Alaska Board of Game that aerial hunting is a critical tool to manage moose and caribou populations for abundance. This resolution is also premised on the belief that the harvesting of moose and caribou is a "preference among beneficial uses" of Alaska's wildlife. (Article 8, Paragraph 4 of the Alaska Constitution)

As early as the 1990's the State Board of Game has used aircraft, many times the ONLY means of access, to thin a growing population of predators so both subsistence and local hunters could continue to access sustained yield of this resource. This form of management has increased the moose and caribou population in many parts of the state. It has also cut down on the danger of random wolf attacks on dogs or small humans.

Despite this valuable management tool, there are those from other states who seem to believe they know better, or don't have a clue. They are wrong. Despite that, they continue to try and once again they have found a friend in Congress. The Honorable George Miller of California has introduced legislation that is specifically aimed at Alaska. It would make it a federal crime with a \$50,000 fine for Alaska to manage its game asset.

House Joint Resolution 31 says, "NO"; That Alaska knows what it is doing when it comes to wildlife management; That we have professional trained staff and biologists that make the correct necessary decisions to protect our valuable resources for all Alaskan's... What California considers sport hunting many Alaskans consider food on the table that doesn't have to be shipped from California.

Your support of HJR 31 lets Congress know by making it clear once again that Alaska is a sovereign state, with the ability to "utilize" and "maintain" our wildlife on the sustained yield principle without interference from people, many who have never seen or supplemented their pantry with a moose or caribou. It supports our Congressional delegation by saying game management of Alaska from Washington D.C. is not acceptable.

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31(RES)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/25/08  
Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KELLER, Wilson, Johnson**

**SENATOR Therriault**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to**  
2 **prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has experienced and  
5 knowledgeable biologists familiar with Alaska wildlife; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Board of Game openly discusses game management at board  
7 meetings and makes decisions based on scientific data; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska is a sovereign government within the United States with its own  
9 Board of Game responsible for managing the wildlife asset to be utilized, developed, and  
10 maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses,  
11 under art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** many areas in Alaska are accessible only by boat or aircraft; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska presents unique living and wildlife situations of which many  
14 people outside the state might not be aware; and

15 **WHEREAS** there is no shortage of predators in Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** predator imbalance will destroy other species that are important to the

1 ecosystem of Alaska; and

2       **WHEREAS** there is legislation before Congress to prevent aerial predator control;  
3 and

4       **WHEREAS** the use of aircraft is a necessary tool for managing the asset of game  
5 animals to provide for abundance for personal use in Alaska; and

6       **WHEREAS** much of Alaska's wildlife represents a natural food source for many  
7 Alaskans;

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all members of Congress  
9 to oppose H.R. 3663, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007; and be it

10       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that management of fish and game in Alaska should be left  
11 to the experts in the state.

12       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
13 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
14 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa  
15 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
16 the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States  
17 Congress.

*Exemption  
Low Stock Exemption*

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLER**

**Introduced: 1/30/08**

**Referred:**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to**  
2 **prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has experienced and  
5 knowledgeable biologists familiar with Alaska wildlife; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Board of Game openly discusses game management at board  
7 meetings and makes decisions based on scientific data; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska is a sovereign government within the United States with its own  
9 Board of Game responsible for managing the wildlife asset to be utilized, developed, and  
10 maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses,  
11 under art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** many areas in Alaska are accessible only by boat or aircraft; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska presents unique living and wildlife situations of which many  
14 people outside the state might not be aware; and

15 **WHEREAS** there is no shortage of predators in Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** predator imbalance will destroy other species that are important to the

1 ecosystem of Alaska; and

2       **WHEREAS** there is legislation before Congress to prevent aerial predator control  
3 except for the protection of livestock; and

4       **WHEREAS** the use of aircraft is a necessary tool for managing the asset of game  
5 animals to provide for abundance for personal use in Alaska; and

6       **WHEREAS** moose and caribou represent livestock to many Alaskans;

7       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all members of Congress  
8 to oppose H.R. 3663, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007; and be it

9       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that management of fish and game in Alaska should be left  
10 to the experts in the state.

11       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
12 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
13 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa  
14 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
15 the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States  
16 Congress.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHJR 31(RES)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/25/2008

Identifier (file name): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title OPPOSE FED LAW RE AERIAL HUNTING RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Representatives Keller, Wilson and Johnson  
 Requester House Resources Committee Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Debra Higgins Phone 465-3715  
 Division: Committee Aide, House Resources Date/Time 2/20/08 3:00 PM  
 Approved by: Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chair Date 2/20/2008  
House Resources Committee

**Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 (Introduced in House)**

HR 3663 IH

110th CONGRESS

1st Session

**H. R. 3663**

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to establish additional prohibitions on shooting wildlife from aircraft, and for other purposes.

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**September 25, 2007**

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

**A BILL.**

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to establish additional prohibitions on shooting wildlife from aircraft, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the 'Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007'.

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PROHIBITIONS.**

Section 13(a) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(a)) is amended--

(1) by striking 'or' after the semicolon at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2);

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

'(3) shoots or attempts to shoot any bird, fish, or other animal before 3:00 a.m. following a day on which the person has traveled by aircraft other than on a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft;

'(4) knowingly participates in using an aircraft for any purpose referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or

'(5) knowingly violates any regulation issued under this Act;'; and

(3) in the matter following paragraph (5) (as added by this section) by striking '\$5,000' and inserting '\$50,000'.

### SEC. 3. EXCEPTIONS TO PROHIBITIONS.

Section 13(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

'(3) Except as provided in paragraph (5), a State may not authorize or undertake any action otherwise prohibited under this Act, for the purpose of increasing any game population or for the purpose of sport hunting.

'(4) Notwithstanding subsection: (a), a State may shoot any wolf, bear, or other predator from an aircraft to prevent a biological emergency, if--

'(A) the head of the State's fish and wildlife agency determines, based on the best scientific data available, that a biological emergency is imminent and there is no other means available to eliminate the biological emergency;

'(B) the shooting is conducted by an officer or employee of the State fish and wildlife agency or of the United States Department of Agriculture;

'(C) the shooting occurs only in the specific geographical area where the biological emergency exists; and

'(D) the shooting removes only the minimum number of predators necessary to eliminate the biological emergency.

'(5) The Secretary of the Interior may authorize an action that is referred to in paragraph (1) to prevent the extinction of any species that is listed as an endangered species or threatened species under section 4(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)), if the Secretary determines that there is no other means available to address the threat of extinction.'

### SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY.

Section 13(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(c)) is amended to read as follows:

'(c) As used in this section:

'(1) The term 'aircraft' means any contrivance used for flight in the air.

'(2) The term 'biological emergency' means an irreversible decline in a wildlife population caused by a predator population.'

### SEC. 5. CITIZEN SUITS.

Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

'(g) Any person may commence a civil action on the person's own behalf--

'(1) against any person, including the United States and any other governmental instrumentality or agency, to the extent permitted by the eleventh amendment to the Constitution, who is alleged to be in violation of this Act; or

'(2) against the Secretary if there is alleged a failure of the Secretary to perform any act or duty under this Act that is not discretionary with the Secretary.'



## Press Release

Congressman George Miller (D-California, 7th District)  
Committee on Education and Labor, Committee on Resources

### New Bill Would Stop Illegal Airborne Hunting of Alaskan Wolves and other Wildlife

Tuesday, September 25, 2007



WASHINGTON -- Legislation introduced today would protect wolves, bears, and other wildlife from the illegal and inhumane practice of airborne hunting. The new bill would close a loophole in federal law that Alaska officials have exploited to permit individual hunters to shoot and kill nearly 700 wolves from aircraft in the past four years.

"It's time to ground Alaska's illegal and inhumane air assault on wolves," said Congressman George Miller (D-CA), a leader in Congress on conservation and natural resource issues and author of the new bill. "The state of Alaska has been operating an airborne hunting program that not only ignores federal law but violates Alaskans' and other Americans' wishes. The PAW Act will help to protect our nation's wildlife from the unethical and unfair practice of airborne hunting."

The Protect America's Wildlife Act, or PAW Act, was introduced by Miller along with Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), the dean of the House and floor manager of the debate on the original Airborne Hunting Act, and Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), the chair of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

At a press conference on Capitol Hill, Miller was joined by Atka, a 5-year-old Arctic grey wolf, and two wildlife experts and advocates -- Joel Bennett, an Alaska resident and former member of the state's Board of Game, and Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation and environmental advocacy organization.

In response to public outcry over airborne wolf hunting in Alaska, Congress passed the Airborne Hunting Act in 1972 to prohibit shooting or harassing animals from aircraft. However, for the last several years, officials in Alaska have licensed people to shoot hundreds of wolves from aircraft under the guise of wildlife management and predator control but in clear violation of the intent of the federal ban.

In 1996 and again in 2000, Alaskans approved two popular ballot measures that banned airborne hunting in the state, but the state legislature largely overturned each of those measures.

Hunting wildlife from an aircraft violates wildlife management principles and the hunting rules of fair chase, as does the related practice of chasing animals in an aircraft until they are exhausted and then executing them on the ground, known as 'land and shoot.'

The PAW Act makes it clear that states can only conduct activities prohibited by the Airborne Hunting Act to respond to legitimate biological and other emergencies, not just to authorize otherwise-illegal hunting practices. The bill does not alter existing exceptions for the use of aircraft for animal control where land, livestock, water, pets, crops, or human health and safety are at risk.

The bill is numbered H.R. 3663, and has been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

###

## Overview of Relationships Between Bears, Wolves, and Moose in Alaska

Relationships between large predators and their prey in Alaska are complex, and no one model fits all situations. It is possible to generalize about some situations, particularly in Interior Alaska. This information on the biology of moose, bears, and wolves, represents highlights from 25 years of research and management programs conducted by universities and state, provincial and federal governments in Alaska and Canada. In 1997, the National Academy of Sciences published a summary and review of predator/prey interactions in Alaska (National Research Council, 1997). More research has been conducted since that review. The published references listed below can be found in most university or large municipal libraries.

In the boreal forest of northern Canada and Interior Alaska, where bears (either black bears, grizzly bears, or both) and wolves are lightly harvested and are major predators on moose, moose densities typically remain well below levels that their habitat can support. Under these circumstances, moose density fluctuates between about 0.1 and 1.0 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> over large areas; most commonly densities are 0.4 to 0.6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. Biologists refer to this situation as the Low Density Dynamic Equilibrium or LDDE because moose density fluctuates yet remains low. This occurs primarily because, together, bears and wolves are efficient predators on moose calves, and kill most of the calves born each year. The highest densities reached in these systems (about 1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>) tend to occur in very large burns where habitat is excellent and moose apparently are more successful at avoiding predators.

Although the LDDE prevails in much of remote interior Alaska, differences occur between areas. In most areas, bears are the major predator on moose calves. An exception occurs in Game Management Unit 20A where wolf control has been shown to be effective at maintaining high numbers of moose and high long-term harvests of moose. In Unit 20A, initial reductions in wolves increased moose population density, wolves also quickly increased after wolf control because, ultimately, the number of wolves in an area depends mostly on the number of prey animals in the area. Number of moose harvested also remained high after wolves increased. An abundance of trappers in Unit 20A has kept wolves from increasing to the point where they could cause declines in the moose population. A similar situation likely occurs in portions of Units 20B and 20D South.

Grizzly bears have been shown to be particularly effective predators of moose calves from birth to about 2 months of age and often kill adult moose in the spring. In this regard, one grizzly bear is equivalent to many black bears. Not all bears are equal, however, and some bears seem to become specialists at killing both adult and calf moose.

Black bears have been found to be the most important predator of moose calves in some areas of Alaska where grizzly bears are uncommon. In these areas, black bears killed about 40% of all moose calves that were born. Most predation was by adult males.

Biologists expect that significant reductions in bear numbers (either black or grizzly or both) will also lead to higher numbers of moose for harvest. For example, in areas of Canada and the northern states where moose coexist only with wolves, moose are often found at high densities that fluctuate with weather and habitat (e.g. Isle Royale).

Numbers of grizzly bears have probably increased in Interior Alaska since the 1950s. We base this on incidental observations by older hunters, local residents, cabin owners, and Native elders, who all indicate that grizzly bear numbers have increased. This is corroborated to some degree by modern studies. For example, grizzly bears were recently found to be significant predators of moose calves on the Yukon Flats and are commonly seen by local residents, whereas 20-30 years ago, observations of grizzly bears were rare.

In the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, where wolves and bears are not common, moose are abundant.

Grizzly bear populations appear to be much more resilient to harvest than previously believed. During the last 10 years, the Alaska Board of Game has made a deliberate effort to reduce numbers of grizzly bears in a few important hunting areas (e.g. Game Management Unit 13-the Nelchina Basin) by increasing the bag limit and extending hunting seasons. So far, these new regulations have had no noticeable affect on grizzly bear populations even though hunters have taken an increased number of bears.

Wolves have been found to be very adaptable and they recover from low numbers within a few years. Despite relatively heavy hunting and trapping over the last century in Alaska, wolves occur on nearly all of their traditional habitat throughout mainland Alaska. Historically, wolf numbers were greatly depressed. Specifically, wolves were rare in Interior Alaska between about 1910 and 1925, and during the 1950s. During 1910-1925 wolves may have succumbed to diseases brought in by sled dogs or to widespread poisoning. During the 1950s, federal predator control agents reduced wolves by poisoning and aerial shooting. Wolves have been abundant and have occurred in all of their historic ranges in Alaska since state management began in about 1960 (except for the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, and the western Seward Peninsula).

Wolves are social animals that live in large family groups. Usually, only a single female per pack successfully raises pups, but depending upon the relationship of adult males and females in a wolf pack, multiple litters may occur in a single pack in a single year. Most pups born into a pack stay in the pack for at least one year, but virtually all have dispersed away from their natal pack by the age of 3. Large packs of 20 or more wolves may occur in areas where food is abundant and pup survival is high. Wolf populations in North America commonly sustain annual harvests or natural mortality rates of 20-40% without experiencing a year-to year decline in numbers. High reproductive rates, high mortality rates and long distance dispersal behavior results in extensive gene flow within wolf populations and between wolf packs.

In Alaska and other areas, if wolves are not hunted or trapped, most mortality is from intraspecific aggression (fighting with other wolves). In trapped wolf populations, natural mortality rates are often lower than in untrapped populations.

In coastal areas of Alaska, where fox rabies is endemic, wolves are periodically reduced to low levels by rabies.

#### **Practical Aspects of managing moose in areas where the LDDE exists**

Usually, without predator control, hunters can take about 5% of a low-density moose population each year – almost all of the harvest must be bulls or the population will decline.

LDDE does not present a biological problem – moose are not likely to become threatened, endangered or extinct due to predation.

The fact that the LDDE prevails in large areas does not usually present a management problem either. Interior Alaska is sparsely populated and access to moose populations is often poor. This means that hunting pressure is relatively light in many areas anyway.

The LDDE can cause a management problem around villages, or in areas that have become important hunting areas for Alaskans near the road system. In these areas, people need or want to harvest more moose than the system can support. In Alaska, moose are valuable to people as a source of food and income (i.e. guiding and transporting hunters), particularly in rural areas. This is why people often express the desire for predator control.

In some areas, where there is a demand to increase moose harvests, it might be possible to harvest more moose by reducing bear predation. Although this idea is reasonable, it is a relatively new idea, has not been adequately tested in Alaska, and programs of this nature need to be viewed as experiments.

#### **References:**

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# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526  
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100  
FAX: (907) 465-2332

February 8, 2008

The Honorable Don Young  
House Natural Resources Committee  
2111 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Young:

A bill before Congress would significantly change the way Alaska and other states manage their wildlife. Sensational posters and emotional advertisements are promoting the "Protect America's Wildlife" (PAW) Act. I believe this Act is misguided and dangerous. Let me share Alaska's view, and encourage you to think critically about this legislation.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's mission is to foster sustainable populations of all wildlife, including predators. Ours is the only state with a full complement of native large predators and big game animals. We recognize our good fortune. We take our stewardship responsibilities seriously.

Alaska manages fish and game on a sustained yield basis, i.e., there are always enough to maintain populations into the future. In the fifty years since statehood, Alaska has proven its ability to prudently manage huge and disparate populations of fish and wildlife.

But the "PAW" Act would make wildlife management decisions for Alaska from faraway Washington, DC. Its sponsors give insufficient consideration to the realities of life in the far north. We should no sooner place ideological restrictions on states' management of all wildlife than we would impose Missouri bass-fishing rules on the crab fishermen of the Bering Sea. Alaska is unique in the nation and demands uniquely Alaskan solutions to challenges and problems.

Wild fish and game is important food for Alaskans. In remote and roadless rural Alaska, people live in tiny villages scattered widely across miles of unfenced wilderness. Many have no sewer or water systems. Mail and groceries arrive by small airplane. Cash economies are not well-developed, and living in rural Alaska is expensive. Wild fish and game are an affordable alternative to store-bought food. It is organic, pesticide- and hormone-free, lean, wholesome, and available locally. Americans in the Lower 48 are discovering the benefits of eating locally produced food. Alaskans have been eating locally for centuries.

The Alaska State Legislature's "intensive management law" recognizes this. The law directs the Alaska Board of Game (Board) - the body that sets wildlife regulations - to identify areas where human consumption of wild game is a priority. The Board sets population and harvest goals for moose, caribou, and deer. If those goals are not met, the Board must consider direct action, such as improving habitat and reducing predation. If habitat is adequate but predators are holding prey

populations down, reducing predation can allow those prey populations to increase and/or enable humans to harvest and eat animals which otherwise would have gone to predators.

Control programs are not designed to eliminate predator populations. No population of predators will ever disappear entirely, given modern management and the permanent habitat protections on more than half of Alaska's land.

Predator control is not hunting. Fair chase is not involved; programs employ methods not available to hunters. If wildlife is destroying a farmer's crops, he doesn't pause to consider fair chase, he addresses the depredation as effectively as he can. Aerial shooting of wolves is a specific management action to reduce predation, carried out only by specially permitted teams of Alaska pilots and gunners in precisely defined areas for limited periods. When scientifically determined reduction goals are reached, control actions stop. Wolves are not killed from the air by non-resident "trophy hunters."

The "PAW" Act includes a provision for state managers to implement predator control in a "biological emergency," but that approach is flawed in the same way as several Alaska ballot initiatives. Managers shouldn't have to approach the brink of an "irreversible decline" in prey numbers before taking action. That's simply irresponsible. If a decline is irreversible, no action will help anyway.

Please review the enclosed materials, or examine our on-line information at <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg-control.main>

Don't hesitate to contact me or John Katz in Alaska's DC office at (202) 624-5858 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

SARAH PALIN  
GOVERNOR

1000 NORTH STATE STREET

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907 465 3600  
FAX 907 465 3532  
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STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

September 27, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
United States Congressman  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0507

Dear Congressman Miller:

On behalf of the state of Alaska, I am writing to express my displeasure with your introduction of a bill that proposes to end what you refer to as "airborne hunting" of wolves and bears in Alaska. You have misconstrued the reality of life in Alaska and the importance of wild game as food to the people of this state. You displayed a shocking lack of understanding of wildlife management in the North and the true structure and function of Alaska's predator control programs. You have threatened the very foundations of federalism and the states' abilities to manage their own affairs as they see fit.

I am dismayed that you did not attempt to contact the state your bill affects most directly before announcing your legislation. At the very least, we could have helped you correct the many inaccuracies and misstatements of fact in both the written and the oral portions of your media presentation yesterday.

For example, Alaska's wildlife management programs are conducted entirely within the tenets of the Airborne Hunting Act, as the annual reports we file with the U.S. Department of the Interior clearly demonstrate. Predator control is not hunting; it is a carefully prescribed directed management action. Airborne hunting is illegal. Our science-driven and abundance-based predator management program enlists volunteers permitted to use aircraft to kill some predators in specified areas of the state where we are trying to increase opportunities for Alaskans to put healthy food on their families' dinner tables.

I am especially concerned your draft bill threatens the constitutionally guaranteed sovereignty not just of the state of Alaska, but all states. Under our system of federalism, fish and game management is generally conducted by the states, not the

The Honorable George Miller  
September 27, 2007  
Page 2

federal government. Courts have repeatedly recognized wildlife management as one of the aspects of traditional state sovereignty reserved to the states under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Federal powers to regulate wildlife are limited and seldom result in broad, area-wide effective management strategies, but Alaska's fish and game management programs have been widely recognized for their excellence and effectiveness. Alaska, alone among the states, has managed its wildlife so that we still maintain abundant populations of all of our indigenous predators almost fifty years after statehood. Your proposal to limit this effective management program to addressing only biological emergencies caused by irreversible declines of important moose or caribou herds is an unworkable and unwarranted interference with time-honored principles of federalism and with effective state programs. If a decline is irreversible, it is by definition unresolvable by deploying management tools. That may be acceptable to you, but I cannot allow wildlife management challenges to deteriorate to unsolvable levels.

Alaska's predator control program is mandated by the Alaska State Legislature, regulated by the independent Alaska Board of Game, and implemented by the world-renowned scientists at our Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our state constitution requires wildlife to be managed on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses. When game population or harvest goals are not met, Alaska's intensive management law mandates action, including habitat improvement and/or predator control.

Our state biologists use radio tracking, visual surveys, and numerous other scientifically proven methods to assess the health of wildlife populations. Often, predators keep prey populations lower than the area habitat could support. In most states, wildlife populations are limited primarily by habitat, in many parts of Alaska, however, moose and caribou are prevented from reaching abundant levels by heavy predation. Wolves and bears are powerful and effective predators, these predators kill far more moose and caribou than do humans hunting for food.

Our science-based program is designed to reduce the effect of predators in given areas with the intent to allow a higher harvest of moose and caribou by humans for food. By thinning the numbers of predators in selected areas, we are enabling more Alaskans to hunt moose and caribou and put food in their freezers. Each program is specifically designed, carefully considered, and closely monitored. We do not undertake predator control lightly.

The Honorable George Miller

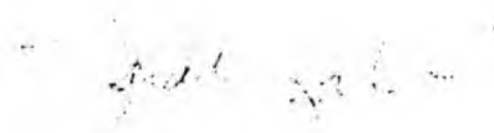
September 27, 2007

Page 3

Predator control is not hunting. Fair chase ethics do not apply. The notion that it is "unsportsmanlike" is simply not applicable. To participate, Alaskans must qualify for permits to shoot on the same day they fly, and, in some cases to shoot from aircraft. A successful program reduces predation and/or allows prey numbers to increase, enables people to take more moose and caribou, and allows healthy populations of predators to thrive. We have healthy populations of wolves and bears all around the state, and we intend to keep it that way - always. We would not conduct predator control if there were even the slightest concern predator populations were in jeopardy.

With all due respect, Congressman Miller, you failed to do your homework. I urge you to learn more about the realities of Alaska's predator control program, and not to swallow the rhetoric of special interest advocacy groups trying to raise money for their inaccurate campaigns. In addition, I invite you to come to Alaska and see for yourself how we manage our wildlife, and meet some of the many hard-working Alaskans who rely on our predator management programs to give them access to the food they need.

Sincerely,

  
Sarah Palin  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens, United States Senator  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator  
The Honorable Don Young, United States Congressman

State of Alaska > Governor > News > News Details

*The Office of the Governor*  
**SARAH PALIN**



## Gov. Responds to the Wildlife Act

07-197 Governor Responds to the Protect America's Wildlife Act

September 26, 2007, Anchorage, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today criticized Congressman George Miller's (D-CA) legislation to eliminate an important element of wildlife management by the State of Alaska.

"Moose and caribou are important food for Alaskans, and Congressman Miller's bill threatens that food supply," said Governor Palin. "Congressman Miller doesn't understand rural Alaska, doesn't comprehend wildlife management in the North, and doesn't appreciate the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gives states the right to manage their own affairs."

Miller's bill would ban the shooting of wolves from aircraft, a component of moose and caribou management plans in five specific areas of Alaska. Predation can keep populations of large game animals at persistently low levels, limiting or eliminating opportunities for Alaskans to secure wild game for food.

Governor Palin is in agreement with Alaska Congressman Don Young, who announced yesterday his opposition to Miller's bill, emphasizing that it is an affront to the sovereignty of American states guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

"This bill would be an unprecedented federal incursion into traditional State management of fish and resident wildlife," said Palin. "If the federal government can do this to Alaska today, it can do it to any other state tomorrow. The other states, particularly the western public land states, should join us in expressing their indignation."

Contrary to what Representative Miller said in Washington yesterday, there is no "aerial hunting" of wolves in Alaska, the Governor said. "Our science-driven and abundance-based predator management program involves volunteers who are permitted to use aircraft to kill some predators in specified areas of the state where we are trying to increase opportunities for Alaskans to put healthy food on their families' dinner tables. It is not hunting and we have never claimed that it is."

Governor Palin said she will contact several other members of Congress to encourage them not to support Congressman Miller's effort.

"It appears to me that the Congressman has been inadvertently drawn into service as a fundraiser for national animal rights organizations that commonly spread inaccurate information about Alaska's game management programs, and with which we are in court on these issues right now," said Palin.

Wildlife management policy in Alaska is set by the Alaska Board of Game, a public body appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature. The Board deliberates by weighing evidence at public meetings. Testimony comes from Alaska Department of Fish and Game scientists, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. Governor Palin stressed today that wolf and bear populations are extremely healthy in this state, and that predator control is intended to create more

opportunities for humans to harvest moose and caribou for food, while maintaining healthy populations of predators.

"Our goal is to always have healthy populations of all wildlife, including wolves," Palin said. "Alaska is the only state that still harbors a full complement of both large ungulates and large predators."

###

Printed on 2/13/08 at 11:20:43 AM by 146.63.202.66

**From:** com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 10:34 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HB 348

Representative Wes Keller, Myself and my family are behind you in your efforts. We are all outdoorsmen and Women and have started seeing the results of the Predator control program in unit 13. We have seen more Caribou and Moose calfs and although we have not been succesfull in our big game hunts the last two years in unit 13 we are seeing more animals, and know it is just a matter of time untill we see more Leagle animals. Now if we could use our aircraft for caribou hunting in unit 13 we would have a fair chance to harvest an animal just as the atv's and boaters do. I am not shure how it came to pass that how I chose to spend my hard earned money on an aircraft instead of a boat or fleet of atv's, that it would elimanate us from participating in this hunt. My family has hunted this area with aircraft since 1965.

Thank you for your time.

Good luck!  
Randy Apling  
Sharon Apling  
Tyler Apling  
Trisha Apling  
Floyd Apling  
Ardith Apling

Anchorage, AK 99501  
91

More new features than ever. Check out the new AOL Mail!

**From:** patti barber [mailto:patti.barber@alaska.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:53 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HJR 31 and HB348

I support these bills as written. This will enhance the value of the wild food source.

Kenny Barber

Palmer, AK 99645

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**From:** O'Connor

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:56 AM

**To:** Rep. Wes Keller

Dear Representative Keller,  
I support HB 348.

Patrick O'Connor

4 1 1  
Palmer, AK 99645

2/13/2008

**From:** Dane Crowley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:42 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Representative Wes Keller,

Thank you first for your service to the State of Alaska and for bringing the HB 348 and HJR 31 to the attention of our government body. Both of these speak to issues plaguing Alaska and must be addressed.

I whole-heartedly support HB 348 and would like to offer the following comments;

- 1) It puts Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game back into the correct role of managing Alaska's fish and game resources for ABUNDANCE and not managing people through archaic seasons, bag limits and poorly designed experiments like the proposed "any ram" hunt in 14A and 13D.
- 2) It gives Alaskans preferential use of game resources. I would like to again bring up the proposal #158 to take 13D and 14 A and eliminate an open sheep hunt for Alaskans, turn it into a draw and reduce opportunity for Alaskans by 2/3 AND allocate 10% permits for non-residents. If there are not enough sheep to have an open hunt there can be no opportunity for non-residents. I say ADF&G must manage for more sheep not limit opportunity, this bill sets it straight.
- 3) Puts into code (Pullen v Ulmer) that game is an asset much like it defined fish.
- 4) This is backed by independent tourist industry business people, backed by hunter groups, subsistence hunters, guides and native organizations because it manages for abundance and reduces in-fighting amongst Alaskans.
- 5) Allows Alaska to manage game without meddling from outside special interest with single-minded objectives not compatible with the Alaskan way of life or constitution.
- 6) Last but not least this does not change any law, law on initiatives, it simply clears the air and helps everyone see the job at hand and give them a base to work off of to do that job.

HJR 31 put another tool in our wildlife manager's tool box and we must be willing to try. If we can take nothing else from the aerial wolf control of Alaska's pre-statehood days, it's that 30 years of intense wolf eradication efforts failed to kill all of or even place Alaska's wolves into a threatened or endangered category. We simply need to put things back into balance. Like it or not People are part of the ecosystem and we are obligated to manage, let manage for healthy moose, caribou, sheep AND bear and wolves.

Thank you for your efforts and I would be more than willing to speak or lend my voice anytime. Keep up the good fight.

Dane Crowley  
Life Member FNAWS and current board member  
Life member SFW/SFH and current board member SFH.  
Palmer Alaska

**From:** jason kottsick [mailto:jason.kottsick@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:51 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** I support you!!!!

Mr. Keller,

I just received an email from Scott [mailto:scott@alaska.gov], the SFW. As a member of SFW, and new Alaska resident, I support what you are standing for. We NEED to have more scientific data to prove that killing predators will in-turn produce more big game and possibly more predators in the future. We must keep aerial predator hunting as a tool to control predators. This is the most humane and effective method that we have. Most importantly though, we need to educate all the people opposed to managing OUR wildlife. They need to understand that what they hear or see on some stupid commercial or from some radical is not always true. People need to learn to rely on sound data that has been produced by our biologists, not rely on what some novel gives them.

I understand that what we are fighting for is very difficult when the folks we are dealing with have a lot of support and money to fight against us. Most of those that oppose this aren't even from Alaska and don't understand subsistence and wildlife management. I respect what you are doing.

Thank you,  
Jason Kottsick

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Climb to the top of the charts! Play the word scramble challenge with star power. Play now!

**From:** Steve Colligan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Yves Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348 Board of Game Regulations and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re; Aerial Hunting

Dear Representative Keller:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my support for HB348 and HJR 31. I fully believe that Alaskans should manage their own resources and follow the process and procedures that are on the books already, that support abundance management. HB348 clarifies the existing relationship between the Department, Board of Game and the Legislature. This will save untold amount of department resources from frivolous challenges from outside interest. I believe that the people nearest the resources have the clearest insight and historical knowledge of game resources in their own back yard. There is an existing process that allows open access between all parties involved, unfortunately outsiders have manipulated this process at the expense of the same people they are claiming to help.

Thank you for this bill to clarify what to many already exists.

HJR 31:

I am in full support of a statement of opposition to Miller of California who is touring his hand brushed show wolf. He is purposely misleading the general public with his Hollywood pet .vs the what really exist in the wild. I am offended that we as Alaskans are his fundraising poster child.

Thank you for bringing these forward for sportsman and subsistence alike.

-Steve Colligan, Wasilla, AK

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**From:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:37 AM  
**To:** Jim Pound  
**Subject:** FW: HB 348-HJR 31

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**From:** Dickey, Martin L [mailto:Martin.Dickey@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:33 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348-HJR 31

Good morning Wes Martin Dickey here I am a life long Alaskan of 51+ yrs and have enjoyed many years as an active fisherman and hunter the Bill HB 348 is a good start as to getting this state my home back on track and managing our own resources **all resources**. Which brings us to the next topic **Bill HJR 31**. This bill is also very important in the management of our resources as wolves/predators are very necessary in nature aerial wolf hunting or fly and shoot same day for predator control based on **all the available data** is a very valuable tool at our disposal and should not be given away this State my State where I choose to live year round and have raised four children who all live and work here also 4 grandchildren who love the outdoors camping, hunting and fishing so lets choose to manage our resources to the best of our ability so there is always enough for all to enjoy.

Sincerely:  
Martin Dickey

Wasilla AK. 99654

---

**From:** Corey Rossi  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Representative Keller

I am firmly in favor of HB 348 Board of Game Regulations and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re;  
Aerial Hunting.

Please keep these important bills moving forward for the good of our beloved game  
resources.

Thank you!

Corey Rossi

**From:** Andrew Zajac .  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9 50 PM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348 & HJR 31

Dear Representative Keller,

It has just come to my attention that there will be hearings on HB 348 Board of Game . . . . and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law . . . . tomorrow. Please be assured that you have my support. I urge you to protect our fish and game from the encroachment of outside interests who wish to dictate how we Alaskans regulate our wildlife. I have hunted in Alaska since 1970 and have seen the decline in our game populations. Bears and wolves are nice to have around, but as predators, they need to be drastically reduced. The needs of humans come first!!

Thank you for you efforts.

Sincerely,  
Andy Zajac

2.13.2008

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**From:** Linda Frey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Subject:** HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Rep. Keller,

I am writing to encourage you in your efforts to pass HB 348 and HJR 31. We are 24 year Alaskans who now have 2 younger generations of hunters in the family. We would like to be able to take our 1 year old twins grandsons hunting and fishing as they get older. We are proud to be Alaskans and recognize that Alaskans do know what is best for our state, not outside anti-hunter groups who wouldn't know what to do with a fresh side of moose if it was handed to them.

Thanks for your work on these bills.

Linda and Dana Frey